

Message Text

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SUBJ: ARCHITECT VISIT TO KIEV

REF: STATE 36926

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTING ARCHITECT KNOOP VISITED KIEV FEBRUARY 17-18, AT WHICH TIME SOVIETS SHOWED NEW OFFERS FOR DOWNTOWN APARTMENTS IN BUILDINGS TO BE REMODELED BY THE END OF 1976 AND A PROSPECTIVE NEW DACHA SITE. REVIEW OF LEADING OFFICE SITES INDICATED STRELETSKAYA COMPLEX COULD ACCOMMODATE PROGRAM, EXCLUDING CG RESIDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTING ARCHITECT KNOOP, ACCOMPANIED BY ADMIN OFF AND RSO, ARRIVED IN KIEV AS SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 17. VISIT FOLLOWED USUAL PATTERN WITH UKRAINIAN MFA ACTING AS GENIAL HOSTS AND DEPUTY CITY MAJOR LAVRUKIN CLEARLY IN CHARGE OF ALL SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. OFFICES REPRESENTED INCLUDED MFA PROTOCOL (DEPUTY CHIEF CHECHEL), MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION (COUNSELOR KOTLIARENKO), SOVIET MINISTERS (PUSIK), ADMINISTRATION FOR SERVICE OF CONSULAR CORPS, AND CITY ARCHITECT.

3. ON FIRST DAY LAVRUKIN LED GROUP FOR CLOSER LOOK AT UNIVERSITESKAYA AND STRELETSKAYA BUILDINGS. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT NON-PLUSED BY SURGE OF TENANTS SEEKING INFORMATION AND NOT HAVING MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE, LAVRUKIN CITED CITY COUNCIL'S NAME TO GAIN ACCESS FOR INSPECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE LIVING AND SERVICE AREAS. KNOOP'S INITIAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT STRELETSKAYA

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COULD ACCOMMODATE PROGRAM WITH REASONABLY CONVENIENT LAY-

OUTS, CONCENTRATING OFFICE SPACE IN #16 WING, APARTMENTS IN OTHER TWO. MORE ATTRACTIVE AND LIVEABLE UNIVERSITESKAYA SITE PRESENTS NO EASY DESIGN SOLUTIONS INVIEW INTERIOR BEARING AND CROSS-WALL STRUCTURE, AND SOVIETS UNABLE TO GIVE ASSURANCES WITHOUT A TECHNICAL SURVEY AND INSPECTION THESE COULD BE ELIMINATED IN RECONSTRUCTION.

4. ON FEBRUARY 18, WITH LAVRUKIN AGAIN IN THE LEAD, GROUP FIRST VIEWED NEW DACHA SITE OFFERING AT VITA POSHTOVA, VILLAGE JUST OFF MAIN HIGHWAY TO ODESSA AT POINT ABOUT 20 KMS. SOUTH FROM CITY CENTER. AREA IS GENERALLY FLAT WITH LOW ROLLING HILLS AND SITE WOULD BE ON EDGE OF SMALL LAKE CREATED BY DAMMED-UP RIVER. WATER, SAID TO CLEAN AND NEAR 15 FEET DEEP AT DAM END, APPEARS TO COVER SUBSTANTIAL AREA, PERHAPS HALF MILE WIDE AT WIDEST POINT. VILLAGE CLUSTERS AROUND DAM END AND, WHILE LAVRUKIN SAID WE COULD HAVE CHOICE OF AREAS, SOUTHERN BANK SPOT WHERE FOREST COMES TO WATER'S EDGE LOOKED ATTRACTIVE IF ACCESS ROAD SUITABLE. AREA DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY OTHER DACHAS AND IT WAS DIFFICULT IN WINTER CONDITIONS FOR US GROUP TO GET CONFIDENT FEEL OF APPEARANCE UNFROZEN.

5. RETURNING TO DACHA SITE EARLIER SHOWN PORTER/MISCH IN JULY 75 AT PUSHCHAVODITSA, ABOUT 18 KM NE OF CITY, LAVRUKHIN OFFERED SECOND POSSIBLE SITE DOWN STREAM A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AND ON OPPOSITE BANK OF STREAM BED. SMALL DAM WOULD BE BUILT, HE SAID, TO CREATE SWIMMING AREA. SPOT IS HEAVILY FORESTED, AND LAVRUKIN SAID TREES CAN BE CUT ONLY WHERE BUILDING IS TO BE PLACED.

6. LAVRUKIN NEXT TOOK GROUP TO 15 GORKY ST., WHICH IS 4-STORY APARTMENT BUILDING BEING GUTTED AND RECONSTRUCTED. EACH FLOOR SAID TO HAVE ABOUT 270 SQUARE METERS. LOCATION IS CONVENIENT TO DOWNTOWN AND FAIRLY ATTRACTIVE SINCE AT THAT POINT GORKY IS WIDE BOULEVARD WITH TREES DOWN CENTER. WORK IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY ABOUT YEAR'S END-- BUILDING IS AT THIS POINT EMPTY, BOARDED-UP SHELL. (EMBASSY REQUESTING BASIC FLOOR PLAN THROUGH MFA, MOSCOW.) SOVIETS ALSO OFFERED SPACE IN APARTMENT BUILDING IN CIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND THE CORNER FROM GORKY SITE AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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43 SAKSAGANSKAYA. THIS BUILDING IS SOMEWHAT LARGER AND NOW BEING WORKED ON WITH COMPLETION DATE ALSO SCHEDULED AROUND DECEMBER 76. STRUCTURE IS NOT ON STREET FRONT, BUT SITS BEHIND AND BELOW STREET LEVEL IN ANOTHER BUILDING'S BACK YARD AS IT WERE. THUS, ACCESS WILL NOT BE ATTRACTIVE.

7. ON QUESTION TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE SOVIETS INDICATED INTOURIST HOTEL WOULD SHORTLY BE CLOSED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE USE OF MOSKVA HOTEL. US OFFICERS SAW NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE, GIVEN ITS CENTRAL LOCATION, IF ACTUAL ROOM SPACE AND COSTS AGREEABLE.

8. IN BRIEF CONCLUDING SESSION, LAVRUKIN PRESSED FOR EARLY DECISION ON BUILDINGS, EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT US SIDE STILL UNABLE TO DECIDE, FOLLOWING NOVEMBER FBO VISIT, ETC. HE SEEMED SURPRISED THAT STRELETSKAYA COULD NOT INCLUDE CG RESIDENCE, BUT SUGGESTED ONE OF NEWLY OFFERED APARTMENT BUILDINGS MIGHT BE USEABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. US GROUP EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON RECEIPT OF KNOOP'S REPORT.
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